



## Global

# Enabling Change for Women's Reproductive Health: Overview of the ENABLE Project

CEDPA's Enabling Change for Women's Reproductive Health (ENABLE) project works to improve women's reproductive health and to empower women to take action to better the health of their families and communities. Initiated in 1998, ENABLE has two major objectives:

- To increase the capacity of non-governmental organization (NGO) networks to expand quality, gender-sensitive, and sustainable reproductive and child health services.
- To promote an enabling environment that strengthens women's informed and autonomous reproductive health decision making through NGO networks.

ENABLE is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and by USAID Missions in five countries — Ghana, India, Nepal, Nigeria, and Senegal.

ENABLE supports three major types of interventions:

- **Reproductive health (RH) services.** ENABLE makes RH services more widely available in underserved low-income areas by engaging trained community volunteers to educate their neighbors about RH, provide non-clinical contraceptive methods, and make referrals to clinic services. From 1998-2001, ENABLE partner agencies provided family planning services to more than 910,000 new clients and 690,000 continuing clients.
- **Social mobilization.** ENABLE works with NGOs, women's groups, and community groups to educate communities about healthy behaviors and promote



public discussion about RH. Broader discussion has led to problem-solving dialogues among community members and local leaders. Community members have also addressed social norms and cultural traditions that contribute to poor health.

- **Policy/advocacy.** Partner agencies identify barriers to improved RH at the local, state, and national levels and press for policy changes such as increased funding for health services and education, updating health service delivery guidelines, and banning harmful cultural practices. ENABLE has provided training for some 10,500 elected officials in India, Nigeria, and Senegal.

ENABLE subprojects focus on family planning, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equity, and youth education. Working mainly with NGOs, ENABLE has created linkages with non-health sectors such as literacy education and democracy and governance.



ENABLE has introduced family planning services into the work of diverse partners, including humanitarian, faith-based, women's, and youth organizations as well as dairy cooperatives and a teachers' union. To ensure that program benefits continue after project funding has ended, ENABLE has emphasized building the capacity of partner agencies. ENABLE has trained more than 6,000 NGO staff in strategies to promote programmatic, institutional, and financial sustainability. Based on its extensive training experience, ENABLE has developed training manuals for NGOs and community groups on RH awareness, program sustainability, and integrating HIV/AIDS into family planning programs.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, CEDPA is an international nonprofit organization that seeks to empower women at all levels of society to be full partners in development. Founded in 1975, CEDPA supports programs and training in leadership, capacity building, advocacy, governance and civil society, youth participation, and reproductive health.

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